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JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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VOL. 134
No. 2

NAMB unveils "The Invitation Stands"

OSCEOLA, Fla. (BP)—At the age of 17, Dawn was in crisis. She was pregnant and alone. She couldn't tell her friends — the gossip and humiliation at school would be unbearable. She couldn't tell her parents — they would be so hurt and disappointed. She was a teen facing an adult decision all alone. Is it any wonder she made the wrong choice?

Fortunately, Dawn wrestled with her decision a little too long and when she visited a Florida abortion clinic, it was too late to end her pregnancy. "The abortionist told me I was going to be a mother whether I liked it or not," Dawn recalled.

Dawn gave birth to a baby girl whom she loved very much. But two years later, her lifestyle hadn't changed and at age 19, she became pregnant again. Already a struggling single mother, Dawn chose not to delay the decision. She walked into an abortion clinic, ended her pregnancy and walked out vowing never to speak about it again.

Where was the hope for Dawn? Where was the voice of reason saying there is help and another option? Perhaps if there had been a pregnancy resource center in Dawn's community, her second baby would have been saved.

Some 6.3 million women face a crisis pregnancy in the United States each year, according to the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. More than 1.3 million of those pregnancies end in abortion. Pregnancy resource centers exist nationwide to tell these women there is hope and a future for them and their babies in Jesus Christ.

The North American Mission Board partners with 270 pregnancy resource centers. Because of NAMB centers, more than 3,600 babies were saved from abortion in 2009. Additionally, some 1,700 women accepted Christ because pregnancy center staff members shared the Gospel with them.

On Jan. 17, Southern Baptists again will observe "Sanctity of Human Life Sunday," marking the 37th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision.



...moms who come to the Osceola Pregnancy Center for help. The center is a ministry of First Church in Kissimmee, Fla. (BP photo)

Elaine Ham, pregnancy care ministries associate at NAMB, wants Jan. 17 to be not only a day of remembrance for babies who have been lost to abortion, but also a day of hope for the babies and mothers who can be saved if Southern Baptist churches and pregnancy resource centers will work together to reach them.

"As I began thinking about Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 2010, I knew God was going to do something special," Ham said. I didn't want to do just a promotional campaign. I wanted to put in place a strategy that would focus on evangelism and promote cooperation between pregnancy care centers and local churches."

While attending a meeting of pregnancy resource center directors at the Florida Baptist Children's Home, Ham met a young woman with a similar vision, Osceola Pregnancy Center director Dawn Pate.

Pate had just completed a three-minute video and a CD of six original songs called The Invitation Stands.

"This was a message God was compelling my heart to speak," Pate said, "to bring more awareness to pregnancy resource center ministry. We are struggling ministries up against a multi-billion-dollar abortion industry. We need the support and prayers of the body of Christ."

Pate knows firsthand the need for Christ to be the hope in the midst of a crisis pregnancy. She was that girl who had faced two crisis pregnancies and an abortion by the time she was 19.

"It's amazing how God works," Pate said. "The very things we don't want to talk about are the things He uses to bring about healing and to minister to other people."

"God is using Dawn in an amazing way," Ham said. "I knew when I met her that The Invitation Stands would be an

integral part of our strategy to build and strengthen partnerships between Southern Baptist churches and pregnancy resource centers."

Churches across the country are invited, join in The Invitation Stands by going to www.nambforlife.net to download free resources and order the video. Hard copies of these resources can be ordered for a small fee by calling (866) 407-NAMB.

Pate and Ham also have joined together to make a variety of resources available for churches to encourage their members to take action toward supporting the life-saving work of pregnancy resource centers through a two-year Sanctity of Human Life project, also called The Invitation Stands.

In the weeks leading up to Sanctity of Human Life Sunday 2010, several churches will take part in a pilot project praying for and visiting pregnancy resource centers in their communities. They will ask God for safety, wisdom and boldness on behalf of the staff and volunteers who share Christ with women in crisis every day. Additionally, church members will bring packages of diapers to help meet the needs of new mothers. Churches interested in participating in this event in January 2010 can contact Elaine Ham via e-mail at eham@namb.net.

"I hope this project will result in a coordinated message between churches and pregnancy care centers," Ham said, "thus enabling them to reach the thousands of women who have suffered from abortion or are currently facing a crisis pregnancy who never would have gone directly to a church for help."

For more ideas on how churches can connect with a pregnancy resource center or start a center in their communities, visit www.namb.net/pregnancy.



WEE CARE - At the Osceola Pregnancy Center in Kissimmee, Fla., volunteer Sandy Smith (right) works in the "Wee Care Boutique" where women can pick out baby clothes and other items for their newborns. The center is a ministry of First Church in Kissimmee. (BP photo)

President Hunt urges January 31 day of prayer

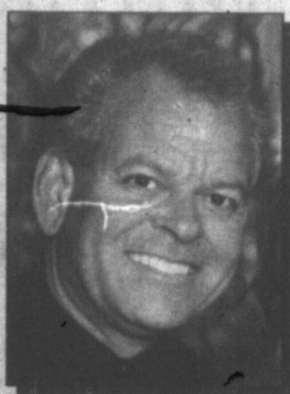
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist Convention President Johnny Hunt has suggested eight steps churches can take to prepare for the Jan. 31 day of prayer, fasting and repentance for the SBC.

"We have forgotten our first love [Revelation 2:4] and need revival in SBC," Hunt said in a Jan. 5 statement to Baptist Press. "There are many decisions being made, including the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, GPS: God's Plan for Sharing, Across North America, search committees for three SBC entities, etc. We need God's direction."

"The goal for the day of prayer is 'for all of us to be still and know that God is God' as a sign of our humility and desire to wholeheartedly return to Him," Hunt said. "By our being still before Him (see Psalm 46:10), we exalt our God and position ourselves to obey the Great Commission, our Lord commanded in Matthew 28:18-20."

Hunt suggested eight ways congregations can prepare for and participate in the emphasis:

- Distribute personal preparation guides for cleansing and restoration and instruct every church member on how to use it through the day.
- Plan a solemn assembly or a concert of prayer for the whole congregation or the entire association.
- Hold prayer gatherings by Sunday School classes or Bible study groups.
- Encourage families to have a focused prayer time acknowledging God alone is God. For example, a family may hold an extended prayer before the evening meal, or a prayerwalk through the home, asking for cleansing and God's presence.
- Challenge every Sunday School class or Bible study group to tithe their time in contrite prayer for spiritual awakening.
- Extend the pastoral



Hunt

Jan. 31 urgent call to prayer for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Information to support the above ideas and more are being added daily to the GPS website, www.GPS2020.net, Hunt said.

In a Dec. 9 Baptist Press column calling for the day of prayer, Hunt listed five specific concerns churches and individuals could focus on:

- A spirit of repentance to fall on churches corporately and personally for individu-

als, and for genuine revival of first love for Jesus. (See Matthew 4:17; Revelation 2:4.)

- A great spiritual awakening across our land so that the lost will be drawn to a personal relationship with Jesus. (See John 6:44; Romans 1:19; 2 Corinthians 2:14.)
- A sweet spirit of reconciliation among any Southern Baptists who are at odds with each other, or other works of God. Love for one another in the body of Christ to grow and blossom. (See Proverbs 28:13; 1 Corinthians 13:25-27; John 13:34-35.)
- Wisdom for the members of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force as they prepare their report in February. (See Jeremiah 33:3; James 1:5.)
- Guidance for the search committees for presidents of the Executive Committee, the International Mission Board and the North American Mission Board. (See Prov. 3:5-6, 13, 15:22, 27:17; Acts 1:21-26.)

Hunt is pastor of the Atlanta-area First Baptist Church in Woodstock.

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Pastors' work hours tallied in new survey

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—Protestant pastors in America are working long hours, sometimes at the expense of relationships with church members, prospects, family and even the Lord, according to a LifeWay Research study released Jan. 5.

A telephone survey found that 65 percent of the 1,000-plus senior pastors surveyed work 50 or more hours a week—with 8 percent saying they work 70 or more hours. Meetings and electronic correspondence consume large amounts of time for many ministers, while counseling and visitation often suffer, along with family time, prayer and personal devotions.

The results of the LifeWay Research study, "How Protestant Pastors Spend Their Time," show that the typical pastor works 50 hours a week. Scott McConnell, associate director of LifeWay Research, pointed out, however, that this average actually understates the number of hours because it takes into account bivocational pastors (11 percent of survey participants), part-time senior pastors (5 percent of the survey) and volunteer pastors (2 percent)—the majority of whom work, by design, less than 40 hours each week for their church.

"Since the phone survey went to church offices, it was pastors who were at the church office and more likely to take the phone call who are included in the survey," McConnell explained. "But, of the bivocational pastors who participated, the median number

of hours bivocational and part-time pastors work for their churches each week is 30 hours.

"Bivocational pastors often follow the Apostle Paul's example of 'working night and day' in Thessalonica as they hold a job outside the church in addition to their job as pastor," McConnell said.

When factoring out those who are not full-time, the median number of hours full-time senior pastors work for their churches each week is 55 hours, with 42 percent working 60 or more hours.

Among ministry activities, pastors spend the most time on sermon preparation—five to 14 hours for half of the survey participants. Nine percent say they spend 25 hours or more in sermon preparation each week, while seven percent report they spend less than five hours.

Ministry-related meetings and electronic correspondence drive the number of hours worked even higher. More than 70 percent of pastors say they spend up to five hours a week in meetings, while 15 percent put their meeting load at 10 hours or more. E-mail and other electronic correspondence eat up between two and six hours a week for half of the pastors, while 14 percent indicate they spend at least 10 hours a week in electronic correspondence.

Many pastors, however, find it difficult to make time for two primary ways of relating to church members and prospects: counseling and visitation.

While 24 percent say they spend six hours a week or more in counseling, the same percentage reports spending an hour or less. Meanwhile, 12 percent of pastors say they spend 11 or more hours a week in hospital, home or witnessing visits, with 12 percent indicating they spend an hour or less. Forty-eight percent say they spend between two and five hours a week in visitation.

Time with family rates as a priority for many pastors, but some find little opportunity to be with their spouses and children. While 30 percent of the pastors report spending 20-29 hours with their families each week—and 16 percent indicate spending 40 or more hours with them weekly—nearly 10 percent say they spend nine hours a week or less with family members. At the same time, 24 percent say they watch 10-14

hours of television each week, with 13 percent putting their TV time at 15 hours or more.

In prayer and personal devotions, 52 percent of the pastors report spending one to six hours in prayer each week and five percent say they spend no time at all in prayer. While 52 percent say they spend two to five hours a week in personal devotions unrelated to teaching preparation, 14 percent indicate they spend an hour or less.

"In the early church, the apostles recognized the need to focus their time on prayer and studying the Scripture, as evidenced in Acts 6:4, for instance," McConnell said. "They shared other ministry tasks—even pressing issues—with qualified believers. Pastors' top two uses of their ministry time today show this same priority in sermon preparation and prayer."

Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Gulfport, gives \$137,748 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The goal was \$50,000; prior to that, the church had never given more than \$38,000 toward the offering.

20 years ago

Bill Causey, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, calls for a solemn assembly to be held on Jan. 16 at Parkway Church, Jackson. This is an urgent call for people to come and humble themselves before God to fast and pray.

50 years ago

C.M. Day, executive secretary for the Mississippi Church Council for Alcohol Education, is elected to the newly-created position of Director of Temperance Work of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JANUARY 14, 2010

VOL. 134

No. 2



YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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Another year, another sad anniversary

On January 22 an anniversary will be observed, but not a typical anniversary with which we associate joy and optimism. Quite the contrary. This sad anniversary marks the 37th year since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its devastating decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion on demand in this country throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy.

The vote among the justices wasn't even close at 7-2, with only Byron White and future Chief Justice William Rehnquist voting against legalizing abortion.

"I find nothing in the language or history of the Constitution to support the Court's judgment," wrote White in his dissenting opinion. "The Court simply fashions and announces a new constitutional right for pregnant mothers and, with scarcely any reason or authority for its action, invests that right with sufficient substance to override most existing state abortion statutes."

Even the anonymous Jane Roe, for whom the *Roe v. Wade* case was styled, has renounced her role in the whole sordid affair so profoundly that she has allowed herself to be identified. Norma McCorvey, who has become a Christian, wants nothing more to do with this legal and moral travesty.

"It was my pseudonym, Jane Roe, which had been used to create the 'right' to abortion out of legal thin air. But Sarah Weddington and Linda Coffey (her *Roe v. Wade* attorneys) never told me that



MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING — Mississippi Baptists have completed the filling of the Memorial to the Missing on the grounds of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. The Memorial contains 50 million pennies that call attention to the 50 million abortions that have occurred in the U.S. since 1973, when the Supreme Court legalized the procedure nationwide during all nine months of pregnancy. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

what I was signing would allow women to come up to me 15, 20 years later and say, 'Thank you for allowing me to have my five or six abortions. Without you, it wouldn't have been possible.'"

More than 50 million babies have gone to their deaths in the past 36 years.

Abortion is just plain wrong (Psalm 106:37-43; Psalm 127:4-5). God cannot be pleased and, like the ancient Israelites, we will undoubtedly pay a heavy price for our rebellion. Thus it has been, and thus it shall be until Jesus returns.

Why do we think we're any different?

SAN FRANCISCO (BP)—In four days, the people of California go on trial.

The trial began in the San Francisco courtroom of Judge Vaughn Walker in the federal case of *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* Jan. 11. The Perry case is about Proposition 8 which restored the traditional definition of marriage in California, to be sure, but it is also about much more.

What is at stake in the Perry case is not just the right of California voters to reaffirm the definition of marriage as only between a man and a woman; a federal court decision overturning Proposition 8 could also ultimately nullify the people's vote on marriage in 45 states and the federal Defense of Marriage Act passed by Congress in 1996.

What is at stake is whether voters can rationally conclude that traditional marriage is a unique institution that promotes important interests respecting natural childrearing, and that those interests are broader than the personal, private interests of the adults involved. And what is at stake is whether voters may consider their own moral and religious views about marriage — or any other subject — when casting their ballots.

This is not the first time that a ballot initiative has been scrutinized by the courts. Nor is it the first time that the courts have

GUEST OPINION:

Traditional marriage on trial in California

By Andy Pugno

general counsel, *ProtectMarriage.com*



dealt with legal challenges about the definition of marriage. In fact, courts have dealt with same-sex marriage claims all over the country, and judges have legalized it in a few states. But this is the first marriage case in the history of the nation where the thoughts, motivations and personal beliefs of an initiative's sponsors have been put on trial to search for "improper" intent.

In all previous legal challenges to state marriage laws, the courts have decided the issues without a full-blown "trial" involving witnesses, cross-examination, etc. Instead, the issues have always been decided on a record of legislative history, scholarly articles, social studies and expert reports. For certain, the individual backers of a ballot initiative have never been put on the stand to have their personal beliefs and

motivations questioned.

Judge Walker has ruled not only that everything Prop 8's backers communicated publicly is relevant evidence, but that even things not communicated to the public are also relevant. Thus, he ordered our campaign to disclose to our opponents all of our private, internal communications about messages considered for use but never actually delivered to the electorate, including drafts of materials that were never used. And, he ordered us to turn over copies of all our internal records and e-mails relating to the formulation of campaign strategy and messages.

Judge Walker has also ruled that the trial will delve into the personal beliefs of the Prop 8's sponsors regarding marriage and sexuality. What relevance, you might reasonably ask

yourself, could that possibly have to whether Proposition 8 is constitutional? That is an excellent question.

According to Judge Walker's rulings, our opponents could try to use these things to show that Proposition 8 passed due to animosity or bigotry toward homosexuals. Or that Prop 8 was adopted because of "improper" religious views. Or that prohibiting gay marriage is akin to racial discrimination, in which case the traditional marriage laws may be presumptively invalid.

No matter how Judge Walker eventually rules in the Perry trial, this legal saga is destined for appeals and a final decision in the U.S. Supreme Court. Ultimately, it will not be Judge Walker's views on marriage that decide this case, but rather those of the nine justices on the highest court in the nation.

I have no doubt that the final outcome of the Perry case will conclusively determine the future of marriage for the entire United States. Our legal team is working as hard as possible to win the trial in the district court, and is prepared to fight with every ounce of energy all the way to the US Supreme Court.

Andy Pugno is general counsel for *ProtectMarriage.com*, the primary organization that worked to pass Proposition 8 in California.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 14, 2010

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

2010 STUDENT MUSIC & WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRIES

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES –

6th-12th grade students



HeartSong Music and Worship Arts Camp

for 6th-12th graders

JUNE 8-12

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UNIVERSITY**
Hattiesburg

Choral Director

JOHN LANGWORTHY
Morrison Heights BC, Clinton

Students will learn and present:
LIFE

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Chris Tomlin
& more

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Must be active in the Music
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REHEARSAL CAMP
June 24-26, 2010
TOUR
June 26-July 1, 2010
Home Concert
FBC, Jackson
July 1, 2010

Witnessing Through Media

AWARDS INFO

PURPOSE: The Witnessing Through Media Awards have been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus.

WHEN: **May 7-8, 2010**

Awards Banquet on Friday, May 7, 7-9 p.m.

Workshops on Saturday, May 8, 8 a.m.-3:15 p.m.

(Watch our Web site for more information on the workshops — www.mbc.org)

WHERE: **Colonial Heights Baptist Church**

444 Northpark Dr., Ridgeland, MS 39157

AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

DIVISION I

Small budget projects using volunteers as well as in-house production facilities.

DIVISION II

Medium to large budget projects using paid staff or outside production house. This also applies to radio stations or other professional sound productions.

A. VIDEO

1. Church Musicals
2. Feature Presentation (30-60 minutes)
3. Magazine
4. Commercial
5. Promotional (stewardship, building campaign, etc.)
6. Music Video
7. Worship Service (broadcast and nonbroadcast)

B. AUDIO

1. Radio Program
2. Commercial
3. Special Project

C. WEB SITE

D. BEST FIRST TIME ENTRY

ENTRY PROCEDURE:

1. Each entry must include: An entry form, description and fee.
Cost: \$15 fee per entry (Make checks payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.)
2. A separate entry form and fee is required for each category entered. Duplicate the entry form, if necessary.
3. Entry fee does not apply to workshop registration fee.
4. Submit program in the following formats:
 - Video – DVD, Beta SP, Mini-DV
 - Web site – submit address on entry form
 - Radio – CD
5. Submit each program entry on a separate tape and clearly label with:
 - Name of Local Church
 - Title of Entry
 - Category Name
 - Original Running Time
6. The program should have been aired or viewed prior to March 1, 2010.
7. The judges reserve the right to move an entry to an appropriate category, add or delete categories.
8. All questions must be answered on entry form.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: **CALL 601-292-3378 OR**

CHECK WEB SITE FOR ENTRY FORM AT www.mbc.org

Entries must be in the office of Communication Services at the Baptist Building no later than **March 5, 2010, 4:45 p.m.**

ENTRIES SHOULD BE MAILED TO ONE OF THESE ADDRESSES:

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry
MBCB
PO Box 530
Jackson MS 39205-0530

Ian Richardson, WTM Entry
MBCB
515 Mississippi Street
Jackson MS 39201-1702

Sponsored by the Church Music Department

For more information: Susan Luttrell: 601-292-3267 or sluttrell@mbcb.org
Complimentary preview DVD available upon request

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YPHY UJ WHU EHU
EJWF KUYJ WF, FTEFOY
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PZW JI WX IHYPFL.
BJPU NZT: NZTYX-IZQF

Clue: K = U

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-One: Twenty-Seven

A SPECIAL OFFERING

A few weeks ago, the front page of the December 10, 2009, issue of *The Baptist Record* carried a story of a young Mississippi couple who was waiting to go to the mission field. They were called, prepared, willing, and ready to go but were unable to go on to the field with the International Mission Board because of the lack of resources. The article created a lot of interest. It stirred many people to a new commitment of prayer and even encouraged many to give more than they had anticipated giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

One of the interesting things that came out of that featured mission article was the calls and comments that were generated. One person wanted to know if because of the great need we were going to try to provide some special Mississippi mission offering so that the couple could get on to the mission field. My response was, "Yes, absolutely! The mission offering is already in place and it is called the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions."

In fact, as I shared with a number of people we have two major, significant offerings, which provide for this couple and scores of others like them to get to their mission assignments around the world. One is the annual focus on International Mission support through the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering all of which specifically goes to sustain and enlarge our mission efforts. The other offering is provided week by week as God's people give in their local church. It is the portion of their offering that goes through the channel that is called the Cooperative Program reaching to thousands and thousands of points of support and mission endeavor.

These two special offerings, one that sustains the work every week, every month, every quarter, and every year through the Cooperative Program, and the other one a high intense focus on our need to be a part of worldwide mission to the ends

of the earth provide for the work to be carried out. Through these two offerings, decisions are made far beyond what just one gift might be able to do. These offerings make it possible for us to send missionaries who, with the help and oversight of the International Mission Board are constantly on the move to get to places and people groups where the gospel can be shared. It is not a selective process that would simply send Mississippi folks, or graduates of a certain seminary, or people with a passion for a certain place. But each year hundreds and hundreds of missionaries are sent out because of the undergirding resources of the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

A second thing that these funds provide is not only for us to send our missionaries but to sustain them. It is not enough just to think about getting the missionaries to the field and leaving them there. We are the support mechanism. We are the people who love, pray, care, and give so that the work can be carried on in an uninterrupted fashion and sustain the missionary, his family, and the needs that may come their way. While we may focus on missions in December through a wonderful magnificent prayer time and offering, January 14 arrives, and July 10, and Southern Baptists have provided so that we are still with them, alongside of them, undergirding them, and sustaining them.

One final thought concerning these two great offerings for missions. Together they strengthen the mission network. They strengthen our vision to reach others. They strengthen our vision to reach beyond where we are and they



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

deserve our continued support. Some have questioned the devotion and commitment of Southern Baptists to the worldwide mission cause. When you look at the economy and the downturn of virtually every important fundraising, dollar-producing aspect of our economy or the worldwide economy, everything has been down.

It is hard for people to give what they do not have. It may be that they do not have a job or that they do not have an income equal to what they had several years ago. They might not possess the ability to work harder to get other jobs. They just do not have the resources

out of which to give. Southern Baptists, and I can say emphatically Mississippi Baptists, have never turned their backs on the mission of reaching a world for Christ, but in these difficult days it has been hard for them to match the high watermarks of the past.

What must we do? Pray that God will not only raise up people who are willing to go but will equally raise up those who are willing to give lovingly and sacrificially. We must be willing to examine our own lives and see what we can do to respond to do all that we can. God's grace is always sufficient and His people must be willing to respond at every level to say, "Here am I Lord, send me, use me, and touch a world through me." The special offerings for missions are in place, and we will do what we can to fill those channels with resources to undergird our mission force.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mbcb.org.

Smoky Mountain Christian Village:

Ideal setting for church groups, senior adult retreats

Smoky Mountain Christian Village

Providing

Whether it's a senior adult group looking for lodging for a weekday retreat, a weekend marriage encounter or accommodations for a week long summer camp for 100 rambunctious youth, Smoky Mountain Christian Village (SMCV) is the ideal solution for any church.

Nestled in a secluded mountain ridge in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains, SMCV chalets are set in the serenity of old growth trees and nature, yet are only a few minutes away from the shopping and excitement of Pigeon Forge and Dollywood/Splash Country. The world famous Smoky Mountain National Park is only 3 miles away.

This beautiful 44-acre property features accommodations that provide a perfect setting for Christian retreats and meetings. Designed with flexibility in mind, it is ideal for almost any type of event—large or small. From a large family reunion or single family weekend getaway

to association retreats or meetings with 200 guests, the facility can handle it all. The campus boasts modern meeting spaces that are flexible for large or small groups. Amenities include a large, year-round, indoor-outdoor heated swimming pool; hot tubs; gas grills; a children's playground; gazebos; walking trails; pavilion with picnic tables; and a

recreational area for pastimes such as horse-shoes and sand volleyball. All accommodations feature fireplaces; many have foosball or pingpong tables. The chalets and lodges are equipped with fully

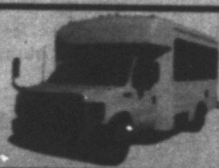
furnished kitchens where groups can prepare meals together, or SMCV can arrange food service if you prefer. For guests with physical disabilities, there are limited handicap-accessible rooms and accommodations.

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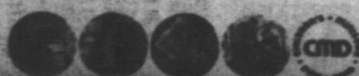
2010 Student Speakers' Tournament

William Carey University
Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Registration - 9:30 a.m.
Tournament - 10:00 a.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Contact Discipleship & Family Ministry Department
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For information on CMD project ideas in Mississippi, Call Tammy Anderson or Robin Keels at 1-800-748-1651, or E-mail tanderson@mbcb.org or rkeels@mbcb.org, or go to www.mbcb.org/events_details.aspx?ID=1672

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And whatever you do, whether in word or deed,
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Colossians 3:17



February 26-27, 2010
Country Woods Baptist Church
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BAPTISTS

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3 dates

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Tuesday, March 2,
FBC, Jackson
Led by Sherry Spillman

Thursday, March 4,
North Oxford BC
Led by Sherry Spillman

Thursday, March 11,
FBC, Laurel
Led by Rick Morton

LEGAL ISSUES FACING THE CHURCH

Alan Woodward, director, Pastor/Leadership Development
Department, MBCB

Kelly D. Simpkins, Attorney, Wells Marble & Hurst, PLLC

Monday, Feb. 22, 7 p.m.
FBC, Brandon, West Campus

AUDIENCE: Pastors/Staff, Personnel Committee,
Finance Committee, Treasurer, Deacons, Trustees

A new book, "The Church out of Court" will be available
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January 31-February 1



"NEW" Pastor Workshop

March 22, 2010 • 9:00 a.m.-12 noon
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**FEBRUARY 9, 2010
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Boykin at lboykin@mbcb.org or call 1-800-748-1651, ext. 292, or 601-292-3292

GARAYWA MOTHER/DAUGHTER OVERNIGHT

Spring, March 5-6, 2010

For mothers and daughters (grades 1-6)
Begin at 5 p.m.
End at 2 p.m. March 6

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Registration deadline two weeks prior to event or when full

Call MS WMU for more info: 601-968-3800
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CP reaches 'more souls,' young pastor says

By Karen L. Willoughby
Correspondent

FARMERVILLE, La. (BP)—When Cross Roads Church realized they had more income than budgetary needs last fall, it didn't take long to decide how to spend it.

They upped their giving to missions through the Cooperative Program from 10 percent to 12 percent.

"The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 4:2 that stewards are to be found faithful," said Andy Johnson, pastor of the Farmerville, La. congregation. "Rather than roll those finances over into a CD or put them away in a rainy day or a building fund, we decided that they would be put to better use for the Kingdom's sake in the Cooperative Program."

"The CP missionary force is, in my opinion, one of the most important arsenals that we as Christians have today," the 30-year-old Johnson said of the national and international outreach supported by 45,000 Southern Baptist churches. The missionaries "are on the front lines ... think of it as a military operation: You wouldn't send the military into battle without making doubly sure that they were properly funded, armed and taken care of, would you?"

Johnson, who is known for his homespun talk, also likened churches' gifts to missions through CP to that of a young boy who gave five loaves of bread and two fish to help Jesus.

"If He can do that with a sack lunch, then He can certainly take what we have to offer Him, no matter how big or small, and multiply it for His own glory," Johnson said.

"I would compare the Cooperative Program with a politician's war chest for a political campaign," the pastor continued. "The more financial resources you have at your disposal, the more apt you are to win — and in our case, winning means seeing more souls come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Redeemer."

Cross Roads does not love money, but it loves what money can do through the Cooperative Program and other mission causes, Johnson said.

"The church is supposed to be more about the 'soul-saving' business than it is the 'money-saving' business," he reflected. "And besides that, we know that the Lord will sustain and bless us because of our faithful giving. We just want to be effective tools in the hand of God for His Kingdom and His glory."

About 100 people participate in Sunday morning worship at Cross Roads in Farmerville, which is north of Monroe, La. Despite what some would say is the limitation of an annual budget of about \$131,000, the church regards the Cooperative Program as "an engine that drives the message of the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth," Johnson said. "It is a necessary engine to provide continuity to the cause of local, state and global evangelism and missions opportunities."

"I know that some would say that all the Lord requires for tithing is 10 percent, and they wouldn't be wrong by saying that," the pastor said. "But there is something more that the Lord

does require of us that goes beyond just tithing. Micah 6:8 says that the Lord requires us to 'do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God.' We chose to implement that by giving above and beyond just what the Lord 'requires' of us."

Cross Roads gives an additional 10 percent of its receipts to several other causes, including 5 percent to Concord Union Baptist Association and monthly financial support for Tim Williams, a church planter in Canada; Randy White, a volunteer missionary with Xtreme Missionary Adventures; Randy Pierce, a volunteer missionary with Macedonia Missions; and a student at Louisiana College.

"God has richly blessed us because of our giving," said Johnson, who is in his first pastorate at Cross Roads, which was operating on about \$99,000 during the 2006-07 budget year when he was called. "To say that God has been faithful to us and has blessed us beyond measure would be a gross understatement," he said. "Mere mortal words can't describe it."

But the church doesn't just give to missions; they do missions.

Some — such as Randy White and Randy Pierce — have given up secular employment to become faith-based missionaries. Some — such as the youth group who helped renovate a hurricane-ravaged church last summer — participate in short term

missions. Nearly everyone in the congregation steps up when someone hears of a local need.

"It's almost as if God just brings us together with a game plan and says, 'Now, go do it,'" Johnson said. "This church has always been ready to mobilize and 'Go ye therefore' to help in any way possible, no matter what the situation is."

The pastor extends his ministry by writing books, having released in December a study of the New Testament story of the rich man and Lazarus titled *Hell to Heaven - Heaven to Hell; Rags to Riches - Dynasty to Destruction*.

"This is the single most evangelistic book that I have written as of yet," Johnson said. "It has a powerful message about how lavish living and a 'have it my way or the highway' attitude instead of a fully submitted relationship with Christ can reap eternal consequences."

Earlier in 2009, he self-published *The Secret is Out! Sex is Biblical - Rediscovering Marital Intimacy*, a book exploring the Old Testament Song of Solomon.

Although Johnson is excited

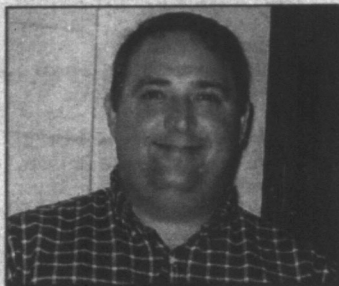


TAKING THE CALL SERIOUSLY - Cross Roads Church's teens and their leaders traveled six hours to help renovate First Church in Hackberry, La., which sustained heavy storm damage twice in three years. They went to Hackberry at the invitation of Randy White (front) of Xtreme Missions Adventures — one of two faith missionaries Cross Roads helps support in addition to the 12 percent of their budget devoted to missions through the Cooperative Program. (BP photo)

that Cross Roads attracts 20 youngsters for Children's Church, he is pleased by the interest of many young people from their teen years on.

STAFF CHANGES

1. **Calvary Church, Pascagoula**, has called Billy Parten as youth minister.



1. Parten

2. **Dry Creek Church, Simpson County**, has called Tony D. Davis as pastor. He comes from First Church, Stonewall. Shown are Davis; his wife, Sandi; daughter, Courtney; and son, A.J.

minister of music at Friendship since Aug. 2009.



2. The Davises

3. **Friendship Church, McComb**, has called Steve Sowell, Tylertown, as minister of music. He has attended the University of Mississippi, the University of Tennessee, and Union University, Jackson, Tenn. He has served as interim

COLLEGE NEWS

1. Freezing Mississippi temperatures and a flurry of snowflakes didn't keep away hundreds of fans of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. In a Jackson appearance Jan. 4 sponsored by the Mississippi College School of Law and the Mission First Legal Aid Office, the

always colorful Scalia offered his insights on legal issues surrounding the nation's highest court. The New Jersey native received a warm reception at the luncheon at First Church, Jackson's, Fellowship Hall.

2. **Southern Seminary, Louisville**, held its 204th graduation commencement Dec. 11. Robert L. Tims, Jr., Cleveland, graduated with a Doctor of Education degree from the School of Leadership and Church Ministry. He holds a bachelor of arts degree from Furman University, 1997.

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HICKORY RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH, Florence, MS, is seeking a Youth Minister. Please forward resumes to Youth Minister Search Committee, 2300 Cleary Road, Florence, MS 39073, or shannon.craft4@gmail.com.

OAK HILL CHURCH OF MERIDIAN is looking for a pianist. Contact 601-482-5583.

BREWER BAPTIST CHURCH, is seeking a P/T Youth and Children's Director that can help us prepare future leaders for an eternity, not just for today. Resumes will be received through February 28, 2010. Please send your resume to 24 Otho Sellers Rd., Richton, MS 39476 or email ymministry@yahoo.com

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING a P/T Music/Youth Minister. Send resumes to Bethel Baptist Church, c/o Bill Finch, 500 S. Main, Water Valley, Ms., 38965-3327 or Email bfinches@gmail.com. Tel. 662-473-3667.

The Arkansas Baptist Home for Children is seeking houseparents.

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Pray this day for...

December 15 - January 18, 2010

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come!"
II Corinthians 5:17

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE SUNDAY (CAC Emphasis) Pray for the many women who have come to our country, being promised a job, and instead finding themselves slaves in sex trafficking. Pray for their deliverance from slavery and to know the love of the true and living God.

(1) Pray for a worker from North Africa as he spends time in Mississippi mobilizing Hispanic volunteers for his area of the world. (2) Thank God for the discovery of 26 new believers in a village in Bali. Pray that they will stay strong in their new found faith and continue to be disciples.

Baptist Doctrine Preview, Lauderdale Association Office, Marion (D&FM). Pray for our missionaries in Europe who face the post-Christian, post-modern thinking so prevalent in that culture. Pray for the people's deliverance from indifference and for a hunger to know God.

(1) Pray for John Cofer of **Liberty Baptist Church in Flowood**, Jan. 25-Feb. 9, as he travels to the Cayman Islands to teach pastors. (2) Thank God for another day in your life to be a light to a lost and hurting world. Ask for someone to minister to this day.

(1) Baptist Doctrine Preview, Baptist Building Skyroom, Jackson (D&FM). (2) Pray for our military as they fight for our freedom. Pray for the believers to stand for the Lord and share the gospel with their fellow soldiers.

A team from **NorthStar Baptist Church in Saitillo** is traveling to the Philippines, Jan. 26-Feb. 9. Pray for this team as they minister in the areas of church planting and evangelism among tribal people.

Pray for: (1) B.W. as she settles into a new area of ministry in Southeast Asia and begins the study of a new language; (2) the Hutto's from **Petal Harvey Baptist Church** in Petal, Jan. 19th-26th, as they travel to Honduras to participate in medical missions and evangelism.

Pray for the upcoming Vancouver Olympics and the many volunteers preparing to go minister there. Around 60 people from Mississippi and 400 Southern Baptist volunteers will be a part of this ministry effort.

A team from **Macedonia Baptist Church** in Myrtle is traveling to the Philippines, Jan. 20-Feb. 2. Pray for this team as they minister in the areas of church planting and evangelism.

Area Keyboard Festival: Calvary BC, Tupelo; Fairview BC, Columbus; FBC, Jackson; Poplar Springs Drive BC, Meridian; FBC, McComb; FBC, Pascagoula. (CM)

One Voice Retreat, Baptist Building, Jackson, 15th, 16th (CM). Pray for wisdom for our seminary professors as they prepare the students to go forth as ministers of the gospel. Pray for the students to maintain their personal relation with God in the midst of overwhelming studies.

Pray for T.D., a lady from Mississippi, who has just gone to the mission field in Southeast Asia. Pray that she will transition into her new assignment well and pray for her as she begins language study in a difficult language.

Pray a prayer of thanksgiving for Brian and Felicia Henderson as they have finished their language study in Costa Rica and moved to their assignment in Peru. Pray that God will bless their ministry and that they will continue to improve in their language skills.

Pray for a team led by **Goodwater Baptist Church in Mages**, Jan. 22-30, as they travel to Haiti. Pray for safety of travel and the ministry opportunities that they will encounter.

5th Annual State Senior Adult Evangelism Rally

February 2
8-11:45 a.m.
FBC, Biloxi



PREACHER: JOHN BISAGNO

BREAKOUTS WITH:

Clayton Jordan, John Patterson
Randy Oswalt, Don Hicks
Huey Dedmon, Daniel Hall

Contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department for more info:
gshows@mbcb.org, 601-292-3373, or 1-800-748-1651

Encourage an MK with a birthday card!

Miss Laura Wingo - 3/1/01
Parents: Floyd & Sylvia
American Peoples

Miss Erin DeMars - 3/6/95
Parents: Guy & Cindy
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Emma Grace Roberts - 3/11/00
Parents: Marty & Suzanne
European Peoples

Miss Hanna C. - 3/11/93
Parents: J. & M.
Restricted

Mr. Charlie S. - 3/13/05
Parents: J. & C.
Restricted

Miss Abigail Hewitt - 3/15/97
Parents: Earl & Ramona
Sub-Saharan African Peoples

Miss Emma Grace Epps - 3/17/03
Parents: Aaron & Tiffany
American Peoples

Miss Robyn Kyzer - 3/24/89
Parents: Russell & Melinda
European Peoples

Miss Emma Worthy - 3/28/03
Parents: Charlie & Shannon
European Peoples

Miss Heather Beaman - 3/28/92
Parents: Brad & Lenora
Restricted

Miss Grace Holyfield - 3/31/93
Parents: Michael & Patsy
European Peoples

FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205. PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.



HOUSE TOPS

BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

Wrestling with Injustice

Ecclesiastes 3:16-17; 4:1; 8:2-13

By Barbara Brown

"That's not fair!" As a mom, educator, and Children's Minister, these words have often resonated in my ears. Children have an uncanny way of quickly sizing up life's events and placing them into one of two categories – "fair" or "not fair." Adults often do the same. We assess a cruel or unjust act and determine what we believe to be the proper recourse. If a wrong was righted or the evildoer punished, then all is as it should be. If, on the other hand, however, wrong seems to prevail and the wicked man appears to prosper, we are quick to rise up in protest. We demand justice and sometimes, in our ignorance, we are even willing to do whatever it takes to make our own perception of justice happen.

The Teacher understood this human struggle against what

sometimes, at least on the surface, appears to be unfair inconsistencies in the meting out of rewards and punishments.

Injustice then

Society 3000 years ago was no stranger to injustice. In fact, the list of wrongs then is not far removed from what we have seen and experienced in our own lifetime. Unfair wages, unbalanced scales, mistreatment of slaves, and racism were all prevalent. Judges and their decisions could be bought. Even God's own people were not living up to their call to care for the sick, the elderly, and the needy.

Injustice now

Our modern society only seems to have perfected the evil and oppression found in the Old Testament world. Slavery, oppressive dictators, bosses who treat employees with little fairness or grace, governments



Brown

which squelch religious freedom, politicians who serve the interests of a select few – these epitomize the injustices of our world today. What about the smaller injustices – the homebound widow, the homeless family, and the latchkey child?

Perhaps we, too, live in a day when God's own people are not living up to the call to care for the oppressed around us.

The Christian's response to injustice

Ecclesiastes 8:5b says that "the wise heart will know the proper time and procedure for every matter." That kind of wisdom is acquired as one spends time in prayer, seeking the Lord and His heart. God says to His people in Jeremiah 29:13, "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." God desires that His people respond to injustices, but our responses as His people must be consistent with His Word.

The Christian's response to injustices should follow these guidelines:

1. No Christian should ever practice injustice.

Are you an employer? Treat your people with grace and fairness. Are you in a position of power? (Parents, teachers, ministers – this includes you!) Do not abuse the power given you. Do you know someone less fortunate than yourself? Without judgment, find ways to love and encourage that one.

2. Where Christians see injustice, they should expose it. The Old Testament prophets preached against the injustices of their day. They sought to remind God's people of His plan for humankind by exposing their wicked ways.

The response of believers to the injustice of abortion is an excellent example of exposure. Until all unborn babies are safe, Christians should continue to rise up and pray at abortion centers, use media to reveal the horrors of abortion, write to influential leaders for support, and care for the moms who choose to carry their babies full term. (A great recent example of media exposure is the story of Abby Johnson, the Planned

Parenthood Clinic Director who is now publicly speaking out in behalf of the unborn after witnessing an abortion in her clinic. You can find her story at christianpost.com.)

3. Trust God to lead you to take action and obediently do whatever He calls you to.

God will make His will for you clear. Your response may be different than that of a brother. You can be sure that His plan will never go against scripture and that when He calls, He also empowers.

As believers we are not only called to rise against injustices in the lives of others, we should also expect that we will sometimes be the target of injustices. We will never right all wrongs; but as we feed, clothe, care for, protect, and minister to others and as we expose the injustices around us, we must remember that our main focus remains to take the Gospel to a lost and dying world. It is only in knowing the Righteous Judge that any person will know peace in the midst of injustice.

Brown is children's minister, Colonial Heights Church, Ridgeland.

EXPLORE THE BIBLE

How to be Pro-Life

Mark 3:3-5, 5:33-42, 10:14-16

By Malcolm Woody

His hand is of no use. It is "dried up" as they say. Still he is in synagogue today on the Sabbath to hear Jesus. Unbeknownst to him, he is also a pawn the Pharisees plan to use to trap Jesus. You sense the trap and it is a wily one. The Pharisees know how compassionate Jesus is, and a man with a useless hand will provide all the bait they need to catch Him healing on the Sabbath. Everything is going as planned until Jesus speaks.

Jesus said to the man, "Come and stand in front of everyone." Then he turned to his critics and asked, "Is it legal to do good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing harm? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?" But they wouldn't answer him. (Mk

3:3-4 NLT)

On another occasion, a large crowd of people surround Jesus as He is on his way to a synagogue ruler's house to help with an ill daughter. In the crowd is a lady pressing to get close to Jesus. She has been bleeding for twelve years. She is vile, unclean and considered to be cursed. You know she has spent a small fortune going to physicians, but no one can heal her. Jesus senses that someone has touched Him and wants to know who. The crowd is silent as the bleeding woman kneels before Him, trembling with fear as she identifies herself as the one.

"Daughter," He said to her, "your faith has made you well. Go in peace and be free from your



Woody

affliction." (Mk 5:34 HCSB)

Then Jairus, the synagogue ruler, receives the message no parent ever wants to hear. His daughter has died. No doubt he is greatly distressed. As a religious leader he had put aside the fact that he might be ostracized by his colleagues to see if the Galilean Miracle-worker could heal his daughter. Now she has died and all is lost. Jesus hears the news and says to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Only believe." (Mk 5:36 HCSB) You ask yourself, what can Jesus possibly do about death? Later, you see Jairus' daughter alive and well. What on earth happened?

On another occasion you watch as people bring children to Jesus for Him to bless them. The disciples are greatly troubled by this. They believe the Rabbi has more important things to do than

attend to little children. So they rebuke the people.

When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." (Mk 10:14 NIV)

Because of Jesus, the withered hand is good as new, the bleeding lady is restored to health when no one else could do a thing, a dead little girl is full of life again, and those viewed as the least of our society have full access to the King. What sort of King is this? Make no mistake, He is just as puzzling today as in the first century. The King still comes to hearts today and only requires faith in Him. It is that simple. It is that sweeping a truth. This simple, sweeping truth that has been changing lives for 2,000 years.

Today's lesson necessitates the question: Who doesn't matter to Jesus? Whose life has no worth in His opinion? In our culture, being Pro-Life is a

political stance. For Jesus, it was who He was. Even more than that, He took the reality of respect for life and painted it across the entire spectrum of humanity. The fact is that being His followers, such as we are, puts us all in the same boat. You can't look away with apathy toward others because Jesus doesn't give you the option. Everyone, one and all, is valued by Him. That includes the maimed and wounded, the unborn, the dead and dying, and the children. He is so Pro-Life that He gave His life for all. Then, in His resurrection, He overturned the enemy of life – death. His love through His sacrifice and resurrection brings worth to every life. We can only love life in this way by seeing things through His eyes. Those eyes shade everything in grace and mercy and call us to act according to His purposes. This is Christ in us.

Woody is a member of Broadmoor Church, Madison.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

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Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

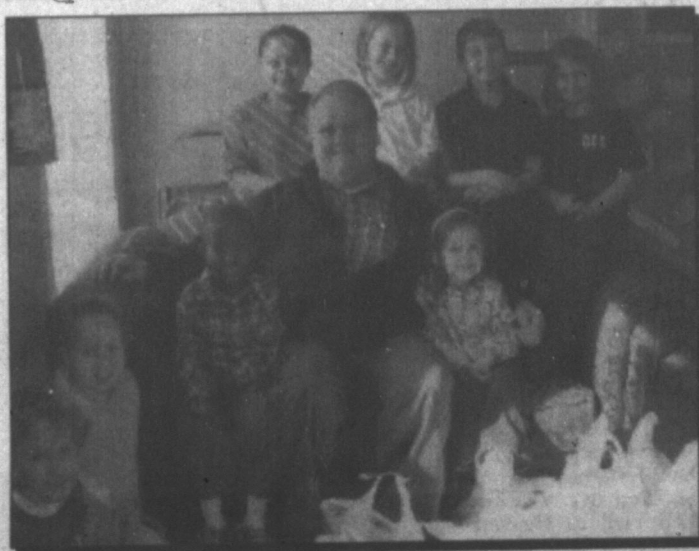
submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

JUST FOR THE RECORD



2. Winston Association food drive



3. First Church, Ripley



4. Owen ordination



5. McCleary retirement

1. Faith Church, Ovett is hosting a turkey shoot Feb. 6, 8 a.m. Cost is \$3/shoot. The church will provide 410 - 20 - 16 - 12 gauge shells. For more information, call (601) 344-7397, 344-7262, or 344-2902.

2. Grace Christian School, Louisville, held a food drive to benefit the Winston Association food pantry. Shown are AMD Paul Blanchard, Gannon Meek, Morgan Troyer, Melvin Knowles, Emma Grace Loper, Kiara Nash, Braeden Nabers, Kyle Borntrager and Anna Grace Cherry.

3. The Women on Mission ministry circle of First Church, Ripley, prepared and delivered 30 trays of fresh goodies and lap throws to shut-ins and nursing home residents during Christmas. Shown are the participants.

4. Calvary Church, Duck Hill, ordained Roger Owen as deacon Nov. 1. Shown are pastor William Vance, Owen, Donna Owen, Herman Heath, and Danny Jackson.

5. Pleasant Hill Church, Tiptah, hosted the Tiptah/Benton pastor's conference Nov. 16 to honor Bill McCleary upon his retirement as associational missions director. Forty-eight pastors and wives came to the event. Shown are the participants.

6. Trinity First Church, Waynesboro, presented the children's praise choir program, Joy to the World, Dec. 13. Shown are the participants.

7. Gum Branch Church, Winston Association, recently dedicated their new fellowship hall building to James and Mae Yarbrough. Yarbrough pastored Gum Branch for 34 years. Shown are AMD Paul Blanchard, May Yarbrough, and pastor James Mills.

8. The youth of Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn, set up their annual Lottie Moon mailbox. The mailbox made \$325 to go toward the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Bobby Cossey, pastor; Dru Allen, youth pastor. Shown are the participants.

9. The children's choir of Branch Church, Morton, presented the Christmas story Dec. 6. Shown is Bobo Phillipson and the children's choir.



6. Trinity First Church, Waynesboro



7. Blanchard, Yarbrough, and Mills



8. Mt. Olive Church, Baldwyn



9. Branch Church, Morton

JUST FOR THE RECORD



5. First Church, Oloh



6. Penton recognition



7. Walton ordination



8. Area 6 meeting

1. **Crossgates Church, Brandon**, is hosting First Place 4 Health, a Christ-centered weight loss and healthy living program. Classes are available beginning Jan. 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.; Jan. 15, 9:30 - 11 a.m., or Jan. 17, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (601) 506-5482 or visit www.crossgates.org.

2. **Glade Church, Laurel**, is hosting the Triumphant Quartet, Sevierville, Tenn., in concert Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m. A love offering will be taken. For directions to the church, visit www.gladebaptistchurch.com.

3. The women's ministry of **Bellevue Church, Hattiesburg**, is hosting Renew with guest speaker Kym Garraway Jan. 21, 6 p.m.

4. **Cedar View Church, Olive Branch**, is hosting a community singing Jan. 16, 6 p.m., featuring the Almost Famous Carl Crain Singers. A youth fundraiser will precede the event at 5 p.m.

5. The senior adults of **First Church, Oloh**, were honored at a luncheon with John Sapp, pastor, First Church, Lumberton, Nov. 9. Shown are pastor James Moore, Nancy Chain, and Sapp.

6. **First Church, McLain** held a deacon recognition for Jamie Penton Dec. 6. Shown are AMD Jimmy Holcomb, Debbie Penton, Penton, and pastor Jim Slowey.

7. **Yale Street Church, Cleveland**, ordained Terry Walton to the gospel ministry Dec. 27. Shown are Virginia Walton, Anita Walton, Walton, and pastor Thomas Bruce.

8. **Poplar Springs Church, Meridian**, hosted the annual Area 6 meeting Nov. 14. The ministry of the year was to supply the Jeff Anderson Cancer Center with items the patients could use, including almost 1000 caps, turbans, and hats. Also, \$3,860.50 was presented to Jennie Ruffin, representative and social worker for the center. Approximately 100 were in attendance. Shown are some of the participants.

9. **Sladen Church, Slayden's** sanctuary choir, children's choir, orchestra, and drama team presented This is the Story of Light. Shown are Michael, Brittany, and Levi Riley. Mark Mathis, music director.




9. Slayden Church, Slayden

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